

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

For: SURGICAL BARRIER DEVICE INCORPORATING AN INFLATABLE THERMAL BLANKET WITH A SURGICAL DRAPE TO PROVIDE THERMAL CONTROL AND SURGICAL ACCESS

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

In advance of the first examination in this case, Applicants request amendment of the subject application, as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Page 1, line 4, please insert the following paragraph:

--This is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/286,714, filed April 5, 1999 entitled SURGICAL BARRIER DEVICE INCORPORATING AN INFLATABLE THERMAL BLANKET WITH A SURGICAL DRAPE TO PROVIDE THERMAL CONTROL AND SURGICAL ACCESS.--

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claims 2-57.

Please add the following claims:

58. (Added) A combination for use during surgery on a person, comprising:
a flexible base sheet;
a material sheet attached to a first surface of the base sheet by a plurality of seals to form an inflatable portion with a periphery, the inflatable portion having a periphery;
a plurality of apertures through the base sheet within the periphery; and

a surgical drape attached to, or formed integrally with, the inflatable portion and extending beyond the periphery.

59. (Added) A combination in accordance with claim 58, wherein the inflatable portion is for covering the pelvic region and lower extremities of the person, and the surgical drape is rectangular in shape.

60. (Added) A combination in accordance with claim 59, wherein the inflatable portion has a recess at an end thereof, and the surgical drape includes an opening adjacent the recess.

61. (Added) A combination in accordance with claim 58, wherein the inflatable portion is configured to cover the chest and upper extremities of the person, and the surgical drape is rectangular in shape.

62. (Added) A combination in accordance with claim 61, wherein the inflatable portion has a recess at a first end thereof and a recess at a second end thereof, and the surgical drape includes an opening adjacent the second end recess.

63. (Added) A combination in accordance with claim 58, wherein the inflatable portion is configured to cover the torso and upper extremities of the person, and the surgical drape is rectangular in shape.

64. (Added) A combination in accordance with claim 63, wherein the inflatable portion has a recess at a first end thereof and a recess at a second end thereof, and the surgical drape includes an opening adjacent the second end recess.

65. (Added) A combination in accordance with claim 58, wherein the inflatable portion is configured to cover the torso, the upper extremities and the lower extremities of the person, and the surgical drape has a rectangular head end portion and a pair of foot end portions separated to define an opening.

66. (Added) A combination in accordance with claim 65, wherein the inflatable portion has a recess at an end thereof, and the opening is adjacent to the recess.

67. (Added) A combination in accordance with claim 66, wherein the opening includes a longitudinal V-shaped notch and a transverse slit intersecting the head end of the notch.

68. (Added) A combination in accordance with claim 58, further including a frame for supporting the surgical drape.

69. (Added) A combination in accordance with claim 58, wherein the surgical drape is formed by an extension of the base sheet.

70. (Added) A combination in accordance with claim 58, wherein the surgical drape is formed by an extension of the material sheet.

71. (Added) A combination in accordance with claim 58, wherein the surgical drape comprises a surgical drape sheet of flexible material which is attached to the base sheet.

72. (Added) A combination in accordance with claim 58, wherein the surgical drape sheet is attached to the overlaying material sheet.

73. (Added) A combination in accordance with claim 72, wherein the surgical drape sheet is attached at an edge portion thereof to the periphery of the overlaying material sheet.

74. (Added) A combination in accordance with claim 58, wherein the surgical drape covers the entirety of the material sheet and is attached to the periphery of the material sheet.

75. (Added) A surgical barrier device, comprising:
an inflatable device that includes:
a flexible base sheet with two ends, two edges, and an undersurface;
the ends, and respective edges of the base sheet forming a periphery;
the base sheet including a layer of fibrous material on which the undersurface is disposed;

a material sheet attached to the base sheet by a seal near the periphery;
 an inflating inlet for admitting a thermally controlled inflating medium into the inflatable device; and
 the base sheet adapted for exhausting the thermally controlled inflating medium from the inflatable device through the undersurface;
 the inflatable device being sized and configured to cover one or more partial portions of a body; and
 a surgical drape attached to, or formed integrally with, the inflatable device, and extending beyond the periphery, the surgical drape being sized and configured to cover additional portions of the body; and
 an opening formed in the surgical drape for accessing a surgical site on the body.

76. (Added) A surgical barrier device in accordance with claim 75, further including a plurality of seals between the material sheet and the base sheet within the periphery.

77. (Added) A surgical barrier device in accordance with claim 75 wherein the inflatable device is configured to cover the pelvic region and lower extremities of the body, and the surgical drape is generally rectangular in shape.

78. (Added) A surgical barrier device in accordance with claim 77, wherein the inflatable device has a recess at an end thereof, and the cutout is adjacent to the recess.

79. (Added) A surgical barrier device in accordance with claim 75, wherein the inflatable device is configured to cover the chest and upper extremities of the body, and the surgical drape is generally rectangular in shape.

80. (Added) A surgical barrier device in accordance with claim 75, wherein the inflatable device has a recess at a first end thereof and a recess at a second end thereof, and the opening is adjacent to the second end recess.

81. (Added) A surgical barrier device in accordance with claim 75, wherein the inflatable device is configured to cover the torso and upper extremities of the body, and the surgical drape is generally rectangular in shape.

82. (Added) A surgical barrier device in accordance with claim 81, wherein the inflatable device has a recess at a first end thereof and a recess at a second end thereof, and the opening is adjacent to the second end recess.

83. (Added) A surgical barrier device in accordance with claim 75, wherein the inflatable device is configured to cover the torso, the upper extremities and the lower extremities of the body, and the surgical drape has a generally rectangular head end portion and a pair of foot end portions separated by the opening.

84. (Added) A surgical barrier device in accordance with claim 83, wherein the inflatable device has a recess at an end thereof, and the opening is adjacent to the recess.

85. (Added) A surgical barrier device in accordance with claim 84, wherein the opening includes a longitudinal V-shaped notch and a transverse slit intersecting the head end of the notch.

86. (Added) A surgical barrier device in accordance with claim 75, further including a frame for supporting an end of the surgical drape.

87. (Added) A surgical barrier device in accordance with claim 75, wherein the surgical drape is formed by an extension of the base sheet.

88. (Added) A surgical barrier device in accordance with claim 75, wherein the surgical drape is formed by an extension of the material sheet.

89. (Added) A surgical barrier device in accordance with claim 75, wherein the surgical drape is formed by a surgical drape sheet of flexible material which is attached to the base sheet.

90. (Added) A surgical barrier device in accordance with claim 89, wherein the surgical drape sheet is attached to the material sheet.

91. (Added) A surgical barrier device in accordance with claim 90, wherein the surgical drape sheet is attached at an edge portion thereof to the periphery of the material sheet.

92. (Added) A surgical barrier device in accordance with claim 90, wherein the surgical drape sheet covers the entirety of the material sheet and is attached to the periphery of the material sheet.

93. (Added) A surgical barrier device in accordance with claim 75, wherein the plurality of apertures open through the surface in the inflatable device.

94. (Added) A surgical barrier device in accordance with claim 93 wherein the apertures include spaces between the fibers of the fibrous material.

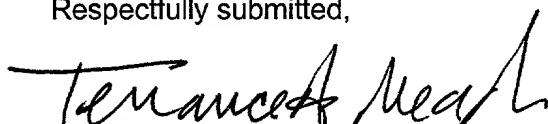
95. (Added) A surgical barrier device in accordance with claim 93, wherein the apertures include multiple discrete holes in the base sheet.

REMARKS

Claims 2-57 have been cancelled. Claims 58-95 have been added. Claims 1 and 58-95 remain in the application.

This Preliminary Amendment is submitted in advance of the first examination of the subject application. No new matter has been entered.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: 29 January 2001

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